

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6130
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
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AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USUN NEW YORK 5839

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UR, XJ, CU
SUBJ: SOVIET MEDIA ON AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS AND CASTRO VISIT

SUMMARY: SOVIET WEEKEND PRESS CONTAINS EXTENSIVE
REPORTING ON AFRICAN THEMES BOTH IN GENERAL AND WITH
PARTICULAR REGARD FOR ZAIRIAN DEVELOPMENTS. CASTRO TELLS
SOVIETS (BUT NO ONE ELSE) ABOUT HIS AFRICA TRIP. END
SUMMARY.

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1. WEEKEND PRESS REPORTS AT SOME LENGTH ON MOROCCAN
DECISION TO SEND TROOPS TO ZAIRE AND ON PRC SHIPMENT
OF 30 TONS OF SUPPLIES. APRIL 10 KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
CITES U.S. PRESS ON RECRUITMENT OF MERCENARIES FOR
ZAIRE IN U.S. AND ON POSSIBLE JOINT ACTION BY ZAIRE
AND SOUTH AFRICA AGAINST ANGOLA. NETO WARNING

CABLES TO HASSAN, SADAT, AND OAU ARE REPORTED IN APRIL 11 PRAVDA AND ANGOLAN MFA STATEMENT ON DIRE CONSEQUENCES OF FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IS DESCRIBED IN APRIL 10 PRAVDA. ANGOLAN MFA STATEMENT REPORTEDLY SAID EVEN U.S. HAD REFUTED ZAIRIAN CHARGES OF THE PRESENCE IN SHABA PROVINCE OF CUBAN, SOVIET, PORTUGUESE, AND ANGOLAN MILITARY PERSONNEL. TASS LUANDA ACCOUNT CONCLUDES BY SAYING THAT IF GOAL OF THIS INTERFERENCE (OF MOROCCO AND PRC) IS AN ATTACK ON ANGOLA, THEN THE PRA "WARNS THAT IT WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY FOREIGN INTERVENTION."

2. APRIL 10 PRAVDA HAS TASS PEKING REPORT ON CHARGES BY PRC DEPUTY PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN AT BANQUET FOR PRESIDENT OF MAURITANIA OULD DADDAH THAT A "SUPERPOWER" ORGANIZED INVASION OF ZAIRE BY MERCENARIES. ARTICLE ENDS WITH STATEMENT OF SOVIET POSITION OF "STRICT NON-INTERFERENCE" IN THE INTERNAL EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN ZAIRE.

3. APRIL 9 IZVESTIYA CARRIES AN UNUSUAL PAGE ONE EDITORIAL ON SOVIET SOLIDARITY WITH PEOPLES OF AFRICA. BUILT AROUND THEME OF PODGORNYY TRIP, ARTICLE:

-- EMPHASIZES PAST AND FUTURE SOVIET "ALL AROUND" SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS;

-- DESCRIBES CURRENT SHARP STRUGGLE OF IDEOLOGY IN SOCIALIST AND BOURGEOIS WORLD (IN THIS CONTEXT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENTION IS MADE OF "SMOOTH TONGUED" WESTERN EMISSARIES WHO PREACH AN END TO RACISM AND APARTHEID, BUT WHO SUPPORT PRETORIA AND SALISBURY - AND THESE ARE SAME PEOPLE, SAYS IZVESTIYA, WHO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SOCIALIST STATES OVER HUMAN RIGHTS);

-- SAYS DETENTE ENABLES GREAT VICTORIES OF NATIONAL-LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND CREATES MORE FAVORABLE PROSPECTS FOR ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES;

-- SUPPORTS FULL EMBARGO ON ARMS SUPPLY TO SOUTH AFRICA AND CESSATION OF NUCLEAR ASSISTANCE.

4. WEEKEND COVERAGE OF CASTRO VISIT DOES NOT HELP MUCH IN DETERMINING DETAILS OF HIS VISIT. COMMUNIQUE-LIKE DOCUMENT (APRIL 9 PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA) SAYS ONLY THAT CASTRO TOLD SOVIETS IN DETAIL ABOUT

HIS TRIP AND THAT BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED DETERMINATION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PARTIES TO DO "ALL WHICH DEPENDS ON THEM" FOR DEVELOPMENT OF COORDINATION BETWEEN "INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST AND NATIONAL-LIBERATION MOVEMENTS." LATIN AMERICAN DIPLOMATS HERE (E.G., BRAZILIAN AND MEXICAN DCM'S) PROFESS TO HAVE NOT KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT "SECRETIVE" CUBANS WERE UP TO EITHER IN AFRICA OR IN MOSCOW.

5. COMMENT: OVERALL TONE AND INCREASED VOLUME OF SOVIET MEDIA REPORTING ON ZAIRIAN DEVELOPMENTS, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO ANGOLAN "WARNINGS" AND NETO'S MESSAGES, SUGGEST SOVIETS ARE BECOMING MORE CONCERNED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN ZAIRE.

6. IZVESTIYA FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL CONTAINS NO SURPRISES, BUT DOES REEMPHASIZE TWO IMPORTANT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PLANKS OF SOVIET AFRICA POLICY - IDIOLOGICAL STRUGGLE WITH THE WEST AND SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL-LIBERATION MOVEMENTS EVEN UNDER CONDITIONS OF DETENTE.
TOON

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